

**NORTHEASTERN GREAT BASIN
RESOURCE ADVISORY COUNCIL
(NEGBRAC)
MEETING MINUTES
November 9, 2001
Elko, NV**

Resource Advisory Council (RAC) Members Present and Category Represented:

Ms. Kathy Ataman	(2) Archaeology
Mr. Bob Edwards	(1) Transportation & ROW
Mr. Scott Egbert	(1) Livestock
Mr. Duane Erickson	(2) Environment
Mr. Vince Garcia	(3) Native American
Mr. Dave Gaskin	(3) State Agency
Mr. Hudson Glimp	(3) Academic
Mr. Donald King	(2) Wildlife
Mr. Jon Muller	(2) Recreation
Mr. Dave Tattam	(2) Wild Horse & Burro
Ms. Patsy Tomera	(3) Public at Large
Mr. Bill Upton	(1) Mining
Mr. Jeff White	(1) Mining

Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Representatives Present:

Bob Abbey	State Director, Nevada
Tonya Arnberger	Accounting Technician, Elko Field Office
Mike Brown	Public Affairs Officer, Elko Field Office
Helen Hankins	Field Manager, Elko Field Office
Gene Kolkman	Field Manager, Ely Field Office
Diane Murray	Public Affairs Officer, Battle Mountain Field Office
Jo Simpson	Chief, Office of Communications, Nevada
Jerry Smith	Field Manager, Battle Mountain Field Office
Bob Stewart	Public Affairs Specialist, Nevada

Other Attendees:

Paul Gageway	Public at Large
Roger Grant	Public Lands Users Advisory Council
Kevin Kirkeby	White Pine County Commission
Roy Niebling	Public at Large, Elko
Jack Prier	Public at Large
Everett Woodworth	Nevada Sovereignty, Elko

Note to readers: A copy of each attachment listed in the text of, and at the end of these minutes is on file with the official copy of the minutes in the Elko Field Office of the BLM.

Welcome and Introductions:

Travel Vouchers: Diane Murray handed out new travel authorizations for signature and explained per diem procedures.

I. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

- Minutes from previous meetings (January 5, 2001 and May 3/4, 2001) were reviewed and minor changes made.
- **Patsy Tomera moved that the minutes be changed. It was seconded by Dave Tattam. All were in favor. Patsy Tomera moved that January and May minutes be accepted with changes. It was seconded by Hudson Glimp. All were in favor.**

II. ELECTION OF OFFICERS:

- **Vince Garcia nominated as Chairperson. Dave Tattam nominated Bill Upton as Vice-Chairperson, seconded by Kathy Ataman. All were in favor.**

III. ESTABLISH AGENDA TOPICS & MEETING DATES FOR 2002:

- Priority Topics for 2002
 - (1) OHV Guidelines
 - (2) Vegetation Management Guidelines including noxious weeds, native seed source, and grass bank
 - (3) Minerals and Mining Standards and Guidelines (3809 Regulations)
 - (4) Land Exchanges
- Discussion about topics for 2002
 - Bill Upton noted that in addition to the 3809 Regulations issue, Abandoned Minelands are an important topic as 10,000 to 15,000 abandoned mines in Nevada are a public safety issue.
 - Jon Muller brought up the Sage Grouse Conservation Plan issue. The NEGB RAC should be involved with the Governor's Task Force. Jeff White is on the Task Force. Nominations of representatives - understanding to get as many people to represent as possible on the Stewardship Group.
 - Wilderness Study Areas. There was correspondence from White Pine County concerning counties getting together to form consensus on WSAs. Helen Hankins noted that the BLM made recommendations in 1992 in respect to 100 WSAs. Resolution rests with Congress. Jerry Smith noted the Clark County regional bill - going to geographical - and suggested perhaps the groups would like to make a presentation (Lincoln, Nye, and White Counties)- if BLM has something to address the RAC about in our geographical area.
 - Kathy Ataman noted the Southern Nevada Land Management Act and different

mechanisms such as conservation easements.

- Helen Hankins discussed the proposed Spring Valley exchange - BLM and Eastern Nevada Landscape Coalition would acquire a 9000-acre ranch for a grass bank and research station. Energy proposals include gas lines and two applications for coal-fired power plants in White Pine County adjacent to the Cherry WSA and will involve - rights-of-way, air quality issues, and about 20,000 acre-feet of water will be needed.

- Gene Kolkman indicated that grass banks are needed in the future, especially with drought conditions. Grass banks and native seed will be included in Vegetation Management Guidelines.

- Dave Gaskin discussed BLM's challenges with the new mining regulations and the critical time is now. The RAC can provide "broad oversight" to BLM.

- RAC members requested BLM update them frequently for the Sage Grouse Conservation Plan, Wild Horse & Burro Program, and Fire Rehabilitation.

- **Improving group effectiveness**

- Rely on email/faxes - Distribute in between meetings to think about it. Information needed before meetings (Field Manager reports). Meetings need to be work sessions.

- Pods get together before meetings to make sure people will be here. Three people from each pod are needed at meetings.

- Develop better relationship with other RACs

- Develop list of people to replace those whose appointments expire instead of having to advertise.

- **Meeting dates for 2002 -**

- January 24, Elko

- April 25, Battle Mountain

- August 15 in Ely - 16th optional field day, lunch (15th) to lunch (16th) format.

Break - 1000-1020

IV: SHOSHONE-EUREKA RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLAN FIRE AMENDMENT

- to be discussed at the next meeting and a recommendation will be made.

V. OFF-HIGHWAY VEHICLE DRAFT GUIDELINES

- John Muller passed out review copies of Draft 2 of the OHV Guidelines (Attachment 1). Draft 2 was put into the same format as established guidelines. The Guidelines were discussed at length:

- Helen Hankins commented that the acreage figure used in the preamble of the document is low (16.2 million acres). Other initial comments/questions were did the Draft include ecosystems in addition to environmental concerns and to evaluate the use of the term "degradation" and come up with an alternative clause or word. Any human incursion off of a road will have an impact. "Responsible recreation" is desired. Hankins

also suggested that ‘outcomes’ be defined, i.e. what OHV users should do or not do on public lands, i.e. that there are important resources on public lands and BLM wants the public and their children, etc to see them. Noone is interested in road closures. There should be reasonable access and protect resources all the time or on a seasonal basis. She also requested information be moved to the preamble of the document similar to livestock grazing guidelines. Hudson Glimp noted that expectations of BLM managers and OHV users should be clearly stated.

- BLM was asked to get a copy of the Utah RAC OHV guidelines and any from other states for discussion at the next meeting. Dave Tattam expressed concerned with proliferation of 2-track roads. Also discussed was the need for the guidelines to deal with nesting birds, fragile riparian areas, springtime, and winter operations. Jerry Smith noted that guidelines are not necessarily rules and discussed that any limiting on use must be done wisely.

- Guidelines should include information about:

- Nesting sites, riparian zones, and seasonal use
- Side boards for resource use and protection
- Erosion “Limits of Acceptable Change”
- Start with assumption that public lands are open, and then impose guidance for site specific issues
- Have areas for intensive use

- Additional concerns expressed related to OHV included noxious weeds, behavioral changes needed, proliferation of roads, how vehicles are used and how many roads are in an area. Patsy Tomera and Scott Egbert gave examples of problems in their allotments of road proliferation. Scott also discussed use of D-9s for fire suppression and people using the tracks as new roads.

- Bob Abbey discussed wanting sage grouse working groups to address OHV concerns as well. BLM can’t enforce OHV regulations on all public lands - information and education is needed. Kevin Kirkeby, White Pine County Commissioner wants to see plans from the County up, not BLM down. Gene Kolkman commented with County ordinance in place, the sheriff or NDOW can enforce; although 98 percent of all compliance is voluntary.

- Jon Muller summarized the discussions with the following points:

- General information to be put into the preamble of the document
- Describe OHV use in the standards.
- The RAC seems to feel that lands should be “limited” rather than “open.”
- Look at organized events - what requires permits, and what doesn’t.

- Vince Garcia will bring up OHV concerns to the full TRI RAC when the meeting reconvenes. He also asked that RAC members send comments to Jon Muller by December 10, 2001. Jon will revise the Draft and send to RAC members by January 15, 2002.

VI. VEGETATION GUIDELINES

- Hudson Glimp, Bill Upton, and Don King discussed the draft Vegetation Guidelines. Draft issues were written and following will be added into revised draft: noxious weeds, native seed, grass bank, incorporate riparian areas, and reclamation of disturbed sites. The second draft will be circulated to RAC members in December. Members were asked to comment on the second draft as soon as possible and respond to subcommittee members. New RAC member Duane Erickson will be added to Vegetation subcommittee.

- Jeff White and Bill Upton requested comments from RAC members for future Minerals and Mining guidelines.

- **Bob Edwards moved that the meeting be adjourned and it was seconded by Jeff White. All were in favor.**
- Meeting was adjourned by Chairman Vince Garcia at 12:00 noon.

Date Approved:

Approved by:

Minutes by Tonya Arnberger and Mike Brown, Elko Field Office-BLM